Riyadh extends restrictions already imposed on DRC, Uganda and South Sudan. Rwanda, which has reported no cases, is also on El Salvador's entry-ban list.

KIGALI – Saudi Arabia has suspended travel to and entry from Kenya over Ebola concerns, widening a set of restrictions that already covers several countries in the region.

Saudi citizens are barred from travelling to Kenya, and the kingdom has halted issuing all types of visas to travellers arriving from the country, according to the Saudi Press Agency. The ban also applies to travellers who reach Saudi Arabia through third countries if they stayed in Kenya, or in any other country with an active Ebola outbreak, in the 21 days before arrival.

The announcement was made on Friday, October 30. The Saudi Public Health Authority, known as Weqaya, said the country's public health situation remains reassuring and under continuous monitoring.

The restrictions build on preventive measures introduced in July 2019 and strengthened in May 2026. In June, the kingdom suspended travel to and entry from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda and South Sudan.

The outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo virus and has been ongoing in the DRC since May 2026. Cases were reported in Kenya and Nigeria in October. As of October 26, nine confirmed cases, including two deaths, had been reported in Kenya, all linked to the first case. That patient was a Kenyan national who travelled overland from Beni in Congo to Kampala, Uganda, before flying to Nairobi.

Saudi Arabia is not alone. El Salvador has denied entry to nationals of eight African countries, announced by its Ministry of Health to curb Ebola transmission. The list covers Kenya, Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda. The restriction applies to anyone arriving from or transiting through those countries, including countries without reported Ebola cases. El Salvador cited a provision of its migration law that lets immigration officials deny entry to people from the eight nations. El Salvador Bars Kenyan Travelers Over Ebola Fears Amid Growing Restrictions +2

Rwanda is not among the countries listed by ECDC as having reported cases in this outbreak, yet it has taken strong measures of its own. On May 22, the Ministry of Health said all foreign nationals who had travelled to or transited through the DRC in the previous 30 days would be denied entry. Rwandan nationals and foreign residents with proof of residency were permitted to enter. The ministry also reinforced screening at land border points with the DRC and introduced enhanced entry controls at Kigali International Airport. Rwandan nationals and permanent residents can return but must undergo quarantine. Rwanda closed the Goma–Gisenyi border crossing with the DRC on May 17. RBC: Info note for travelers

Curaçao has also listed Rwanda. Nationals of Angola, the DRC, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda are not allowed to enter, and visa applications from these nationalities will be refused. Kenya, for its part, has enhanced screening for travellers arriving from several high-risk countries, including Rwanda, requiring a digital surveillance form before boarding and a QR code on arrival.

The restrictions come as the outbreak passes a grim milestone. As of October 28, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention counted 10,305 total confirmed cases and 4,996 total confirmed deaths, and calls it the second-largest Ebola outbreak on record. According to the DRC's figures, 10,060 people had been infected and 4,887 had died as of October 25. About a third of those who have died are children. Ebola Outbreak Tops 10,000 Cases as CDC Cites Spread to Kenya, Nigeria +2

The West Africa outbreak of 2014–2016 still holds the highest case count, with more than 28,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths. There are currently no approved vaccines for the rare Bundibugyo species behind the current infections. WHO has urged countries to avoid blanket travel restrictions and to focus on surveillance, contact tracing, screening at entry points and coordinated cross-border responses.